



Tip or Technique

Performing Tasks using Parameterized URLs in IBM Cognos 8

Product(s): IBM Cognos 8

Area of Interest: Report Design

Copyright

Copyright © 2008 Cognos ULC (formerly Cognos Incorporated). Cognos ULC is an IBM Company. While every attempt has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate and complete, some typographical errors or technical inaccuracies may exist. Cognos does not accept responsibility for any kind of loss resulting from the use of information contained in this document. This document shows the publication date. The information contained in this document is subject to change without notice. Any improvements or changes to the information contained in this document will be documented in subsequent editions. This document contains proprietary information of Cognos. All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be copied, photocopied, reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, or translated into another language without the prior written consent of Cognos. Cognos and the Cognos logo are trademarks of Cognos ULC (formerly Cognos Incorporated) in the United States and/or other countries. IBM and the IBM logo are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States, or other countries, or both. All other names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. Information about Cognos products can be found at **www.cognos.com**

This document is maintained by the Best Practices, Product and Technology team. You can send comments, suggestions, and additions to cscogpp@ca.ibm.com .

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION..... 4

2 WORKING WITH URLS 5

2.5 AUTHENTICATION CONSIDERATIONS 5

2.6 GETTING THE SEARCH PATH AND ID..... 5

3 BUILDING URLS FOR CONTENT NAVIGATION AND FOLDER BROWSING..... 6

3.1 URLS IN COGNOS CONNECTION 6

3.2 HIDING THE HEADERS AND TOOLBARS WITHIN IBM COGNOS CONNECTION 7

3.3 ALTERNATING STYLES 7

4 RUNNING REPORT AND LAUNCHING STUDIOS 8

4.1 *RUNNING REPORTS IN COGNOS VIEWER*..... 10

4.2 *QUERY STUDIO*..... 11

4.3 *ANALYSIS STUDIO*..... 12

4.4 *METRICS MANAGER*..... 13

4.5 *REPORT STUDIO*..... 13

4.6 *EVENT STUDIO*..... 14

5 REAL-LIFE APPLICATIONS USING PARAMETERIZED URLS 14

5.1 INTEGRATING INTO BUSINESS APPLICATIONS, LIKE ENTERPRISE PORTALS 15

5.2 *DEVELOPING A CUSTOM START PAGE*..... 16

6 CONCLUSION..... 16

7 APPENDIX – LIST OF ALL AVAILABLE PARAMETERS 17



1 Introduction

Parameterized URLs and bookmark links provide an easy and effective way to perform various different tasks within an enterprise application. A parameterized URL is an http URL link that performs a specific task or directs users to a specific portion of the Web user interface (UI). For example, within IBM Cognos, a parameterized URL can be created to run a report or launch a studio. These parameterized URLs are commonly used by customers as a way of integrating IBM Cognos 8 into third-party applications or linking a report or a start page to various areas of interest.

IBM Cognos 8 exposes its UI navigation functionality through URLs. Through the use of parameterized URLs, users can easily jump to a specific report, launch a report within a studio, perform a search, etc. .

Additionally, users can also customize the UI through URLs either by removing sections of the UI or alternating styles. There are numerous benefits, including:

- **Integrate IBM Cognos into third-party applications without Coding** – Parameterized URLs provide a quick and easy way of integrating IBM Cognos into third-party applications, like Enterprise Portals. Through simple parameterized URLs, users can view IBM Cognos within their external Portal. Additional parameters can be set to remove headers and toolbars to fit IBM Cognos more cleanly within the Portal. The developer, in this case, only needs to understand the syntax to form these URLs and within a matter of moments, they can integrate IBM Cognos into their external applications.
- **Inherit all Platform Security, Access, and Authorization Benefits** – Parameterized URLs are just an alternate means of navigating through the
- IBM Cognos UIs. These URLs inherit all access, security, and authentication permissions.
- **Start Here, Go Anywhere** – Parameterized URLs provide an effective means for navigating to other reports, pages, or studios in one simple click. Users can develop custom start pages or report using URLs to link to other relevant reports or pages.

Although there are many benefits to using URLs, they do have their limitations and users cannot use URLs in every situation. These limitations include:

1. The user needs to be familiar with how to construct these URLs. Often times, the URLs can become quite long and complex for the average end user.
2. Although parameterized URLs provide an easy way to navigate through the IBM Cognos UI, they cannot be used for automating tasks, creating a custom UI, etc. In these cases, developers would write custom code using the IBM Cognos SDK

Parameterized URLs are commonly used and an accepted practice for providing links to specific reports or sections in the UI and for integrating into third-party applications.

2 Working with URLs

In IBM Cognos 8, either the cc.xts or the launch.xts can be appended to the URL to perform. This function provides a common and supported URL structure for all IBM Cognos components to use when running reports and launching studios. Once a user is familiar with the structure of the URLs, they can easily construct their own URLs to perform any UI task. It is important to note that URLs constructed in ReportNet will still work and are still supported in IBM Cognos 8. The new URL structure was implemented to satisfy the following key customer requirements:

1. Customers shall be able to open all supported IBM Cognos components and studios. This includes: IBM Cognos Connection, Cognos Viewer, Metrics Manager, Analysis Studio, Query Studio, Report Studio, and Event Studio.
2. Parameters shall be available to specify the object (report, metric, analysis, event, etc.) to be opened. Additional parameters shall be available to filter the data in the query or result set.
3. The URL structure must be consistent across all IBM Cognos components. This means that the same structure can be used, regardless of whether a report, event, or metric is being viewed or edited.
4. It must be possible to embed and launch these URLs from non-IBM Cognos pages.

2.1 Authentication Considerations

Logins and authentication are treated the same whether you launch IBM Cognos from its default start page or through a parameterized URL. User authentication is still required.

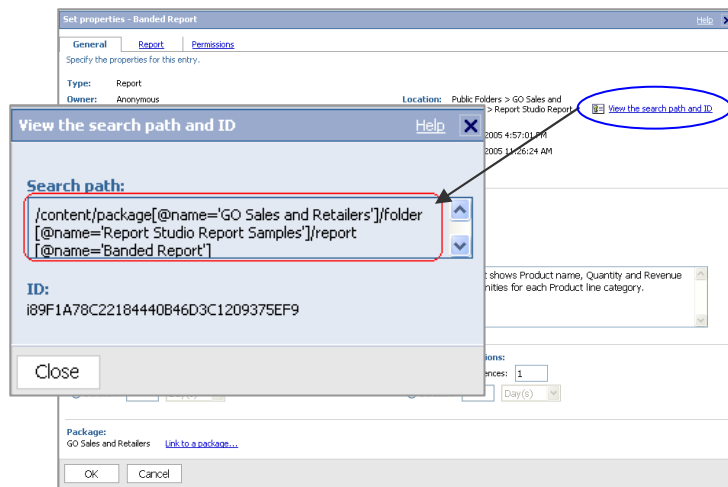
- If your existing environment requires users to login when launching IBM Cognos 8, then these users will still be required to login when launching IBM Cognos through a parameterized URL. In this case, after you login, you will then be redirected to the page that you are calling through the URL.
- If users are using single signon and are not required to explicitly enter login information, then they will not be prompted to login with a parameterized URL.

Refer to the Administration & Security Guide for more information on how to setup single signon.

2.2 Getting the Search Path and ID

When calling an object (folder, page, report, etc.), one parameter that needs to be specified is the search path. You can easily get the search path within IBM Cognos Connection by browsing to the object, clicking on "set properties" and select "view the search path and ID", as shown in the screenshot below.





Objects, like reports and folders use search paths while pages use IDs.

3 Building URLs for Content Navigation and Folder Browsing

3.1 URLs in IBM Cognos Connection

The cc.xts function is used perform IBM Cognos Connection related tasks through a URL. When performing actions within IBM Cognos Connection (folder browsing, viewing pages, searching, or browsing to other section in the IBM Cognos Connection UI), the actual URLs can often be exposed in the web browser’s address bar. In most cases, these URLs may be much longer than needed, primarily because additional parameters, such as a “Back URL” are appended. Here are a few examples of URLs that are commonly used for browsing content in IBM Cognos Connection.

Viewing Portal Pages

http://server-name/cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/cc.xts&m_page=iFEAD7E0238FD4FB0B7CC9144E91C79BC

Folder Browsing

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/cc.xts&m_path=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='Report Studio Report Samples'\]](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/cc.xts&m_path=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples'])

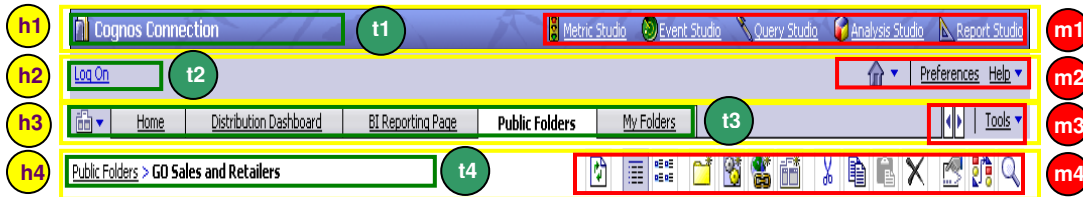
Searching

http://server-name/cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?stext=banded+report&b_action=xts.run&m=portal/cc.xts&m_path=/content&search=



3.2 Hiding the Headers and Toolbars within IBM Cognos Connection

Users can remove the headers and toolbars within IBM Cognos Connection to make IBM Cognos Connection fit more cleanly within their other applications. The “&ui=<list of header to list>” parameter can be used to selectively hide any or all of the following header items. For example, to remove all of the headers and toolbars, append &ui=h1h2h3h4 to the end of an IBM Cognos Connection URL. Any combination of titles (t1, t2, t3, t4), menus (m1, m2, m3, m4), and headers (h1, h2, h3, h4), shown below, can be used.



Notes:

- This only applies within IBM Cognos Connection or Cognos Viewer. You can hide the headers and toolbars within studios using the ui.header and ui.toolbar properties. More information on the corresponding studio sections.
- A header contains both a title and a menu. For example, &ui=h1 will perform the same actions as &ui=t1m1.
- When viewing a report, to remove all headers and toolbars, simply append this parameter to the end of the URL:

http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.action=run&ui.object=/content

[content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='Report Studio Report Samples'\]/report\[@name='Banded Report'\]&ui=h1h2h3h4](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.action=run&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples']/report[@name='Banded Report']&ui=h1h2h3h4)

3.3 Alternating Styles

Users may wish to use various different styles when displaying IBM Cognos 8 within other Web applications. This is particularly helpful as it allows administrators to define a style in IBM Cognos Connection to match corporate branding. By default, all pages are displayed using the current Cognos style, as defined in the Cascading Style Sheet (.css) file.

To override the default css, users can add a parameter called "style" to the URL: &style=<css file>, where, <css file> is a URL to a valid CSS file. For example,

&style=http://myserver/mystyles.css

The CSS file location can also be specified as relative to the IBM Cognos 8 server. For example, ***&style=/cognos8/skins/skin_contrast/portal/mystyle.css***



4 Running Report and Launching Studios

A new URL function, `launch.xts`, can be used to launch reports, studios, etc. all through a simple parameterized URL that the appropriate all IBM Cognos 8 components will understand. The URLs begin with the following syntax and are then followed with specific parameters:

http://<server-name>/cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&

The table below shows a list of commonly used parameters that can be passed within URLs. The full list is in the Appendix.

Argument Name	Description	Value Examples	Mandatory / Optional
ui.gateway	URL to the IBM Cognos 8 gateway.	http://server-name/cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi	Mandatory for Analysis and Report Studio
ui.tool	Name of the IBM Cognos 8 component to be opened	CognosViewer AnalysisStudio QueryStudio MetricStudio ReportStudio EventStudio	Mandatory
ui.object	Search path to the object (package, report, etc.)	/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples']/report[@name='Banded Report']	Mandatory
ui.action	The action that shall be taken on this object.	Run, New, Edit Note: Not all of these are valid for all IBM Cognos components. See Appendix or examples when to use these parameters	Mandatory
launch.openJSStudioInFrame	Specifies whether you wish to launch the studio in the same browser window or in a new window. Only applies for studios that already launch in separate windows (Analysis,	"True" – Opens in same browser window. "False" – Opens in new browser window.	Optional



	Report, and Event Studio)		
ui.header	Specifies whether the IBM Cognos header shall be displayed. It is turned on by default.	"True" – Header will be displayed. This is set by default. "False" – Header will not be displayed.	Optional
ui.toolbar	Specifies whether the IBM Cognos toolbar shall be displayed. It is turned on by default.	"True" – Toolbar will be displayed. This is set by default. "False" – Toolbar will not be displayed.	Optional
run.outputFormat	Specifies the output format. The default is HTML.	HTML, PDF, CSV, HTMLFragment, MHT, singleXLS, XHTML, XLS, XLMA, XML	Optional
ui.backURL	Page to be opened once the component is closed or if you hit the return button	http://<server-name>/cognos8/	Optional
p_<parameter-name>	Any parameter that can be passed, including prompt answers	p_order=1000	Optional
run.prompt	Specifies if the prompt page should appear. It appears (set to true) by default.	"True" – Prompt page appears. "False" – Prompt page does not appear.	Optional

Example – These parameters can be used within a URL is as follows:

Base URL:

http://<server-name>/cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&

Parameters:

[ui.tool=CognosViewer&](#)

[ui.object= /content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='Report Studio Report Samples'\]/report\[@name='Banded Report'\]&](#)

[ui.action=run](#)

Full URL:

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.action=run&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='Report Studio Report Samples'\]/report\[@name='Banded Report'\]](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.action=run&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples']/report[@name='Banded Report'])

CognosLaunch Function



In addition to using a URL, the `cognosLaunch` function provides an alternative means of calling the URL through a javascript function. This is beneficial as it provides a simpler way to construct the URL and you are not restrained by URL browser character limits. The function can be used within a web page in the following manner:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="http://server-name/Cognos8/cognoslaunch.js"></script>
```

This function can be placed within an HREF:

```
javascript: cognosLaunch('ui.gateway', 'http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi',
'ui.tool', 'CognosViewer', 'ui.object', '/content/package[@name='GO Sales and
Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples']/report[@name='Banded
Report'],'ui.action', 'run')
```

4.1 Running Reports in Cognos Viewer

- When viewing or running report:
- `ui.tool` needs to be set to "`CognosViewer`".
- `ui.action` parameter must be set to either "`run`" or "`view`".
- When viewing a saved report, the search path needs to be appended within "`defaultOutput`".
- The list of available report outputs include: *CSV, HTML, HTMLFragment, MHT, PDF, singleXLS, XHTML, XLS, XLWA, and XML*.
- When passing a prompt answer, be sure to append "p_" to the beginning of the parameter name. For example, if your prompt name is Product name, then the appropriate prompt parameter will be "`p_Product name`".
- To avoid showing the prompt answer, append "`&run.prompt=false`" to the end of the URL.

Viewing Saved Reports

```
http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.action=view&ui.object=defaultOutput/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples']/report[@name='Banded Report']
```

Executing Live Reports

```
http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.action=run&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples']/report[@name='Banded Report']
```

Viewing Reports in Different Output Modes



[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='Report Studio Report Samples'\]/report\[@name='Banded Report'\]&ui.action=run&run.outputFormat=PDF](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples']/report[@name='Banded Report']&ui.action=run&run.outputFormat=PDF)

Passing Prompt Answers

To ignore the prompt page, the parameter "run.prompt" must be set to "false". Otherwise, the prompt page will appear with your prompt answer as the highlighted selection.

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='New Reports'\]/report\[@name='product revenue - prompt'\]&ui.action=run&p_Product name=Bear Edge&run.prompt=false](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='New Reports']/report[@name='product revenue - prompt']&ui.action=run&p_Product name=Bear Edge&run.prompt=false)

Passing Multiple Prompt Answers

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='New Reports'\]/report\[@name='product revenue - prompt'\]&ui.action=run&p_Product name=Bear Edge&p_Product name=Aloe Relief&run.prompt=false](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&&ui.tool=CognosViewer&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='New Reports']/report[@name='product revenue - prompt']&ui.action=run&p_Product name=Bear Edge&p_Product name=Aloe Relief&run.prompt=false)

4.2 Query Studio

- When launching Query Studio:
- *ui.tool* parameter needs to be set to "QueryStudio".
- *ui.action* can be set to "new" or "edit".
- Only reports created in Query Studio can be viewed.

Opening Query Studio

http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=QueryStudio&ui.object=/content&ui.action=new

Opening Query Studio to a specific Packages

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=QueryStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]&ui.action=new](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=QueryStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']&ui.action=new)

Opening Query Studio to a specific Report



[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=QueryStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='New Reports'\]/query\[@name='A Report by Product Type'\]&ui.action=edit](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=QueryStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='New Reports']/query[@name='A Report by Product Type']&ui.action=edit)

4.3 Analysis Studio

When launching Analysis Studio:

- *ui.gateway* must be set. An example may be *ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/Cognos.cgi*
- *ui.tool* needs to be set to "AnalysisStudio".
- *ui.action* can be set to "new" or "edit".
- Only reports created in Analysis Studio can be viewed.
- By default, Analysis Studio opens up in its own window. To open it in the same browser window or frame, set *launch.launchJSStudioInFrame=true*

Opening Analysis Studio

http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=AnalysisStudio&ui.object=/content&ui.action=new

Opening Analysis Studio in the same browser window or frame

http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=AnalysisStudio&ui.object=/content&ui.action=new&launch.openJSStudioInFrame=true

Opening Analysis Studio to a specific package

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=AnalysisStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='Great Outdoors Company'\]&ui.action=new](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=AnalysisStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='Great Outdoors Company']&ui.action=new)

Viewing an Analysis Report in Analysis Studio

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=AnalysisStudio&ui.tool=AnalysisStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='Great Outdoors Company'\]/folder\[@name='Analysis Studio Samples'\]/analysis\[@name='Asymmetrical Crosstab Sample'\]&ui.action=edit](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=AnalysisStudio&ui.tool=AnalysisStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='Great Outdoors Company']/folder[@name='Analysis Studio Samples']/analysis[@name='Asymmetrical Crosstab Sample']&ui.action=edit)



4.4 Metrics Manager

When launching Metrics Studio:

- *ui.tool* needs to be set to "*MetricStudio*".

Opening Metrics Manager

http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=MetricStudio&ui.object=/content

Opening Metrics Manager to a Specific Package

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=MetricStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Metrics'\]](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=MetricStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Metrics'])

4.5 Report Studio

- When launching Report Studio:
- *ui.gateway* must be set. An example may be *ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/Cognos.cgi*
- *ui.tool* needs to be set to "*ReportStudio*".
- *ui.action* can be set to "*new*" or "*edit*".
- Only reports created in Report Studio can be viewed.
- By default, Report Studio opens up in its own window. To open it in the same browser window or frame, set *launch.launchJSStudioInFrame=true*

Opening Report Studio

http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=ReportStudio&ui.object=/content&ui.action=new

Opening Report Studio in the same browser window or frame

http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=ReportStudio&ui.object=/content&ui.action=new&launch.openJSStudioInFrame=true

Opening Report Studio to a specific package



[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=ReportStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]&ui.action=new](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=ReportStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']&ui.action=new)

Editing a Report in Report Studio

[http://server-name/cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=ReportStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]/folder\[@name='Report Studio Report Samples'\]/report\[@name='Banded Report'\]&ui.action=edit](http://server-name/cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.gateway=http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi&ui.tool=ReportStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']/folder[@name='Report Studio Report Samples']/report[@name='Banded Report']&ui.action=edit)

4.6 Event Studio

When launching Event Studio:

ui.tool needs to be set to "EventStudio".

ui.action can be set to "run".

By default, Event Studio opens up in its own window. To open it in the same browser window or frame, set *launch.launchJSStudioInFrame=true*

Opening Event Studio

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=EventStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Sales and Retailers'\]&ui.action=run](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=EventStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Sales and Retailers']&ui.action=run)

Open an Agent in Event Studio

[http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=EventStudio&ui.object=/content/package\[@name='GO Events'\]/agentDefinition\[@name='GO Event'\]&ui.action=run](http://server-name/Cognos8/cgi-bin/cognos.cgi?b_action=xts.run&m=portal/launch.xts&ui.tool=EventStudio&ui.object=/content/package[@name='GO Events']/agentDefinition[@name='GO Event']&ui.action=run)

5 Real-Life Applications using Parameterized URLs

Parameterized URLs are widely used and adopted by many customers for many different business reasons. Some include:

- Integrating IBM Cognos into Enterprise Portals or other business applications.



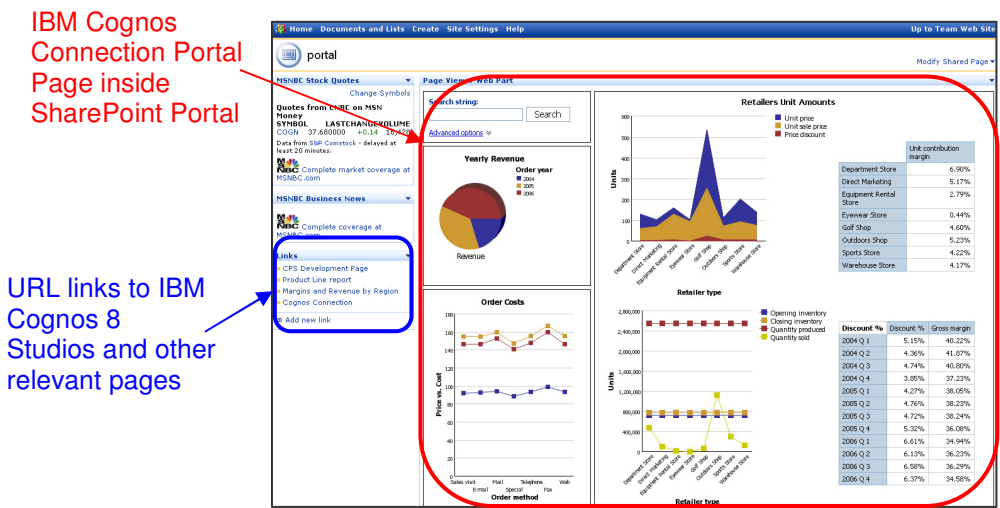
- Developing a custom start page with links to reports, folders, and various other areas of analysis.
- Providing quick links within an enterprise application to launch IBM Cognos studios or reports.
- Providing a link to analyze a particular report within its appropriate studio.
- Providing a list of related reports to quickly jump from one report to another.

5.1 Integrating into business applications, like Enterprise Portals

A common portal integration technique is to embed the application directly within the portal through a simple URL. The technique is referred to as inline frames (IFrames). An IFrame is a web page that is viewable within a portlet. Users can link a section within their portal to any web site (including any web application) through a simple URL. This provides users with a simple transparent window into IBM Cognos from their Enterprise Portal.

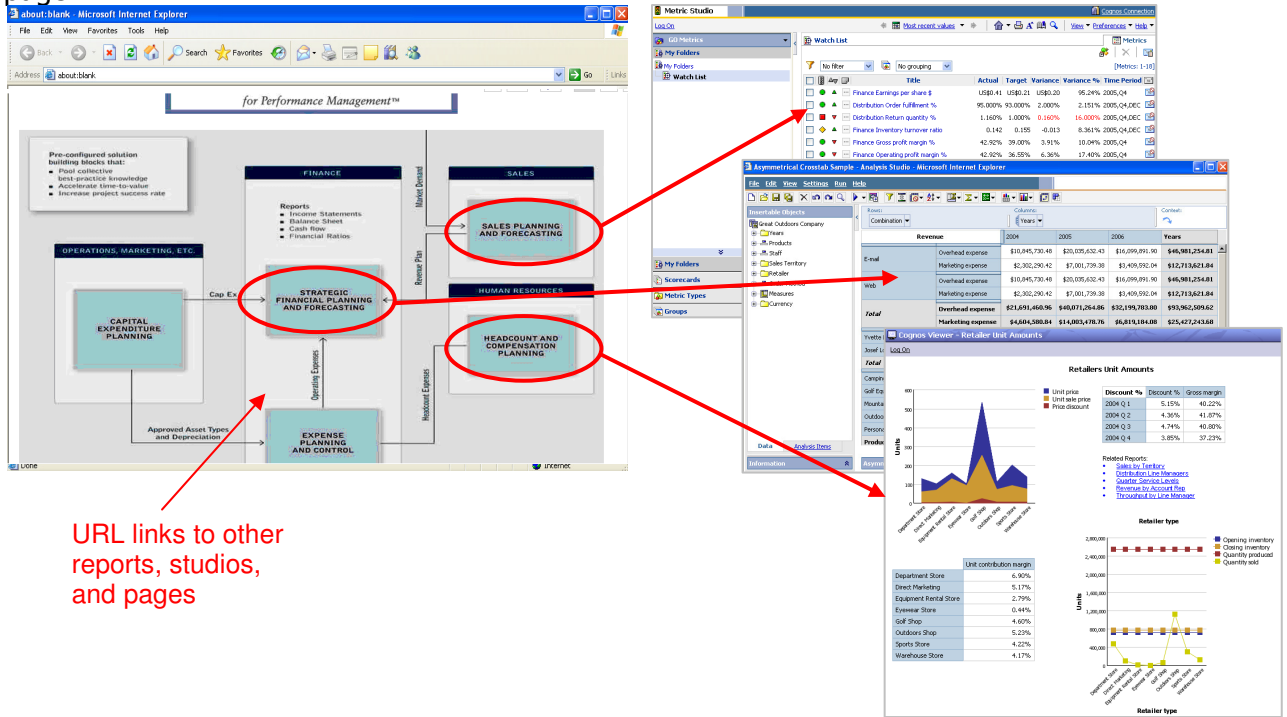
Using this technique, you can easily and quickly integrate IBM Cognos into other portals. For example, in the screenshot below, a custom IBM Cognos page is embedded within an "HTML Viewer" webpart in SharePoint Portal. This is done using the technique discussed in the section on [content browsing](#).

Additionally, using a "links" webpart, we can create a list of simple links to launch other studios and reports.



5.2 Developing a Custom Start Page

In IBM Cognos 8, administrators can create their own custom start or welcome page. This start page can be any HTML web page, report, portal page, etc. In one customer use case, they created a custom report with links to other relevant areas of analysis and use this report as their user's default start page.



6 Conclusion

Parameterized URLs are common and widely used technique to integrate IBM Cognos into other third-party applications and building custom start pages. Additionally, URLs provide a quick way of linking one report to many other reports and areas of analysis. IBM Cognos 8 exposes its UI functionality through URL.

Through a parameterized URL, users can run reports, launch studios, view pages, customize the UI, etc. And this can all be done without the need for coding and can be configured in a matter of minutes.



7 Appendix – List of all Available Parameters

Most parameters are described in the main section of this document. Below is the list of remaining parameters:

ui.action

Mandatory	No
Old name	method
Default value	new
Acceptable values	new, edit

ui.object

Mandatory	Yes but user is prompted to select a package if missing (and if ui.action = new)
Old name	model (when ui.action = new) query (when ui.action = edit)
Default value	n/a

ui.drillThroughTargetParameterValues

Mandatory	No
Old name	drillThroughTargetParameterValues
Default value	n/a

ui.header

Mandatory	No
Old name	nh=1 or 0
Default value	true
Acceptable values	true, false (formerly 0, 1)
Description	Flag used to control the display of all headers in Cognos Viewer

ui.toolbar

Mandatory	No
Old name	tb=1 or 0
Default value	true
Acceptable values	true, false (formerly 1, 0)
Description	Flag used to trigger the display of the toolbar in Cognos Viewer

ui.debug

Mandatory	No
Old name	debug



Default value	false
Acceptable values	true, false (formerly 1, 0)
Description	Flag used to trigger some debugging feature in Query Studio.

ui.command

Mandatory	No
Old name	action
Default value	n/a
Acceptable values	String
Description	Command used to update a mini-query. [Internal to Query Studio]

ui.defaultAnalysis

Mandatory	No
Old name	DefaultAnalysis
Default value	n/a

ui.hideXLS

Mandatory	No
Old name	hideXLS
Default value	n/a

ui.spec

Mandatory	No
Old name	inlineSpec
Default value	n/a
Acceptable values	Mini-Query.
Description	The mini-query to run.

ui.conversation

Mandatory	No
Old name	conversation
Default value	n/a
Acceptable values	
Description	[Internal] Conversation information from Report Server.

run.outputLocale

Mandatory	No
Old name	outputLocale



Default value	en-us
Acceptable values	The value is expressed as a hyphenated language-region pair, in accordance with the RFC3066 standard.
Description	Specifies the language of the report output.

run.outputFormat

Mandatory	No
Old name	outputFormat, output
Default value	HTML
Acceptable values	CSV, HTML, HTMLFragment, MHT, PDF, singleXLS, XHTML, XLS, XLWA, XML
Description	Specifies the output format.

run.prompt

Mandatory	No
Old name	prompt
Default value	true
Acceptable values	true, false
Description	Specifies whether the report service will issue prompts, so that users can enter report option values.

run.version

Mandatory	No
Old name	version
Default value	n/a
Acceptable values	dateTime

run.xslURL

Mandatory	No
Old name	xslURL
Default value	qs.xsl
Acceptable values	URI
Description	Specifies the Web location of an XSL style sheet that can be applied to the report, to render it in the requested format.

run.outputEncapsulation

Mandatory	No
Old name	outputEncapsulation
Default value	none
Acceptable values	HTML, none, URL, URLQueryString



Description	Specifies how output documents in the response are encapsulated.
-------------	--

async.attachmentEncoding

Mandatory	No
Old name	attachmentEncoding
Default value	base64
Acceptable values	like base64, MIME, MIMECompressed
Description	Specifies how attachments to the response are encoded.

async.primaryWaitThreshold

Mandatory	No
Old name	primaryWaitThreshold
Default value	7
Acceptable values	integer
Description	Specifies the maximum amount of time, in seconds, the server can use to process the request before sending a response to the client. Use a value of 0 when you want the client to wait indefinitely.

async.secondaryWaitThreshold

Mandatory	No
Old name	secondaryWaitThreshold
Default value	30
Acceptable values	integer
Description	Specifies the maximum amount of time, in seconds, the server can use to process the request before sending a response to the client. Use a value of 0 when you want the client to wait indefinitely.